



*The California Fashion Association (CFA) is focused on building a knowledge base to identify and meet the needs of the various constituents of the industry.*

September 20, 2021

## CFA News Flash

***In case you missed it...LA Times published an Op-Ed piece that denigrated the industry at large. This is the CFA's response:***

*(Link: <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2021-09-17/garment-workers-minimum-wage-piece-work-california-legislation>)*

**To: Terry Tang**

**Re: LA Times Op-Ed article of September 17<sup>th</sup>**

It is understood that 'Op-Ed' means just that...an opinion of one person, who is certainly entitled to his/her opinion, no matter how little they understand the subject, nor the effect of their 'opinion' on the uninvolved public. With no regard for facts or any real data to support their ideological ranting, they can affect the view of an industry made up of hard-working and talented people.

Ms. Thomas only focuses on the underhanded illegal factory owners who are not working within the clearly stated California law that requires registration of factory owners with joint liability of the brands. Domestic production of the California garment manufacturing industry is very regulated. There are those factory owners who would be underhanded at whatever business they are in, and to state that these are the standards by which an entire industry is judged is much like saying that all opinion writers ignore facts all the time.

She states that workers at the 'piece rate' system are routinely paid less than the hourly wage. Not true! A legitimate factory pays according to Labor code 226. Categorically, all of the data and numbers quoted here are suspect, and listing the country's major retailers as culprits (because "they hire contractors") shows her ignorance of the facts and just serves to say, "stay out of California" to the retail community.

Senator's Durazo's law is badly written and does nothing to ensure that illegal factories are brought in line with industry standards. The basic reasons for the underhanded operations are the lack of enforcement of current laws and the fact that, in most cases, the affected workers are undocumented. The current garment registration law clearly states that undocumented workers without social security numbers are not able to work in registered factories! Now that is something that politicians should be working on.

She is correct in stating that only 3% of fashion sold in the U.S. is American-made....and with voices like hers, that number will even be less! This is no time to denigrate an industry that gives everyone a chance for upward mobility and entrepreneurship when operated in the manner clearly defined by law.

For more information, please contact:  
**Ilse Metchek** | [ilse@calfashion.org](mailto:ilse@calfashion.org)

**California Fashion Association**

578 Washington Blvd., Suite 827, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292 | Tel: 213 688 6288  
email: [info@calfashion.org](mailto:info@calfashion.org) | Website: [www.californiafashionassociation.org](http://www.californiafashionassociation.org)



California Fashion Association | 578 Washington Blvd., Suite 827, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

[Unsubscribe ilse@calfashion.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by [ilse@calfashion.org](mailto:ilse@calfashion.org) in collaboration  
with



Try email marketing for free today!